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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 711

return LB 711 to Select File. Senator Stuhr, followed by Senators Hilgert, Wehrbein, Bourne, Chambers, and Kristensen. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the committee. I, too, oppose this motion to return this bill for this amendment. I concur with Senator Bruning. We discussed this and we discussed it long and hard. We take retirement issues very seriously. It isn't something that you can redo after you set a policy in place. What our feeling was, was we need a study; we need to look at this. We believe that it's very important to provide compensation for our legislative staff. We believe that targeting salaries is the first step, and I hope that we do that...this, while we are here this session. We want to study the issue. As Senator Bruning said, some of the employees would actually be making more retirement than what...the salary they're receiving right now. That is not right and that is not fair. We need to do some more work on this bill. And that is why we voted to keep...three votes to keep the bill in committee so that we could study it and bring it back next session so that we would have a bill ready to present to you that was in a proper form. Retirement issues you don't do quickly, you don't do things overnight, you take time to look at all the many issues. You need actuaries to look at it and to study it. Again, I think we need to do something for our legislative staff, but please wait until next session so that we can discuss this more thoroughly. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Members, the original fiscal note, I believe, was \$2,404,566, the second year of the biennium was \$2,348,493. I don't see revised fiscal notes because, frankly as has been said, it's still in committee. So I share Senator Bruning's concerns that we take a bill that hasn't even cleared committee, that doesn't have the information that we need to make this decision at this time to return LB 711...to return it for a Select File amendment. So I support Senator Bruning. I will listen to the debate and if someone else can talk and clear all this up and perhaps have the requisite handouts and information that would allow the body to